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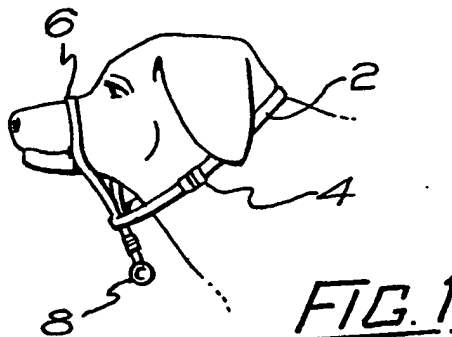
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(54) **Animal halter**

(57) A halter for the control of dogs comprising a lead 6 of flexible material for surrounding the nose of a dog and a collar 2 for surrounding the neck of the dog, the collar having a tongueless buckle slidingly retaining the nose loop.



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Animal Halter

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The invention relates to halters for the control of animals, particularly but not exclusively dogs.

Dogs which are young or not fully trained have a tendency, when walking with their owners on a lead, sometimes to pull on the lead in an attempt to move in a direction in or at a rate different from those desired by the owner. If the animal is large and strong there may be a real possibility of the owner being unable to resist the pull of the animal, and in any case it is usually considered desirable that the animal shall obey its owner and be taught not to pull against the lead.

As an aid to the restraining of dogs and other animals and as an aid to the training of them, we provide, according to our invention, a halter for an animal comprising a loop of flexible material for surrounding the nose of the animal and a collar for surrounding the neck of the animal and comprising means for slidingly retaining said loop, and the loop being integral with or adapted to be attached to an elongate lead.

The sliding retention means may comprise a tongueless buckle to which respective ends of the collar are attached and the individual reaches of the nose loop pass to the respective sides of the cross bar of the buckle.

The nose loop may include a buckle for adjusting the effective length thereof, and may either extend to define a lead or may terminate in means adapted to connect to a separate lead.

Embodiments of the invention will now be described by way of example and with reference to the accompanying drawings, of which:-

Fig. 1 shows the halter in position on the head of a dog; and

Fig. 2 is a detail of a portion of the halter.

As shown in Fig. 1, the halter comprises a collar 2 of flat flexible webbing and having a tongueless buckle 4 for adjusting the length of the collar in conventional manner.

The halter further comprises a nose loop 6 of similar webbing, the loop 6 being connected to the collar 2 as will be described below and terminating in a ring 8 for connection to a lead.

Fig. 2 shows in detail the linking between the nose loop 6 and the collar 2, the link being provided with a further tongueless buckle 10. The buckle is conventional in form, comprising a metal frame having a pair of sides 12 and transverse elements 14 and 16 spanning the sides 12 at each end and an intermediate transverse member 18 linking the sides intermediate the ends thereof.

One free end 20 of the webbing defining the collar 2 is secured to the buckle 10 by being turned back on itself having looped around one of the end elements 14 and secured by stitching 22.

The other free end, not shown, is passed through a length-adjusting buckle of conventional form and not shown, is looped about the ends 16 of the buckle 10 by the portion 24 and is secured in the normal way to the

length adjusting buckle not shown.

A typical length of webbing 4 defining the collar 2 for a relatively small dog would be 25 inches, and it will be understood that according to whether the length adjusting buckle is arranged close to or far from the free end 20, so the effective circumference of the collar will approximate to half the length of the webbing or more.

The nose loop 6 of the halter is made of similar webbing but of slightly smaller width and length. One free end 26 of the nose loop webbing is secured to a tongueless buckle 28 by turning it back on itself having looped around the central bar of the buckle.

Tracing the webbing from the aforementioned end, it passes through the orifice 30 defined by the sides 12 and the transverse member 16 and 18 of the buckle 10, is formed into a bight 32, which in use is fitted over the nose of the animal.

The webbing then returns through the buckle 10, this time through the orifice 34 defined by the sides 12 and the transverse members 14, 18, then passes through the buckle 28 whereby the length of the loop 6 may be adjusted as required by the size of the dog.

Finally, in this embodiment, the other free end 36 is turned back on itself having passed through the D-ring 8 and held in position by stitching.

In use of the halter the collar 2 is fitted over the head of the animal and the length is adjusted until the collar fits about the animal's neck and with the buckle 10 under the animal's lower jaw. The bight 32 of the nose loop 6 is then arranged as shown in Fig. 1 over

the nose of the animal, and the position of the length adjusting buckle 28 is arranged relative to the free end 36 so that when the head of the animal is erect, the buckle 28 is brought into contact with the buckle 10, and a lead is then attached to the D-ring 8.

If, subsequently, the dog pulls hard on the lead, the pressure is exerted on the bridge of its nose which tends to pull the dog's nose downwardly towards the buckle 10, while the buckle 10 remains below its lower jaw, whilst further strain tends to slide the collar around the neck of the dog and brings the dog's head towards its owner, and it is believed that these movements will assist in curbing the animal.

It will be understood that the lengths of webbing used for collar and nose loop, given above, are by way of example only and will be varied according to the size and breed of dog. The webbing may be constructed from nylon or polypropylene, but collar and nose loop may be made of other material such as leather if required.

In another embodiment of the invention, the material forming the nose loop 6 will be of much greater length, the extra length lying between the buckle 28 and the free end 36, so defining a lead without the need for the D-ring 8.

Whilst the halter has been referred to as relating to the control of dogs, it is to be understood that it may be applied to other animals with appropriate adjustment of dimensions of the collar and nose loop.

CLAIMS

1. A halter for an animal comprising a loop of flexible material for surrounding the nose of the animal and a collar for surrounding the neck of the animal and comprising means for slidably retaining said loop, and the loop being integral with or adapted to be attached to an elongate lead.
2. A halter according to Claim 1 in which the sliding retention means comprises a tongueless buckle to which respective ends of the collar are attached and the individual reaches of the nose loop pass to the respective sides of the cross bar of the buckle.
3. A halter according to claim 1 in which the nose loop includes buckle for adjusting the effective length thereof.
4. A halter according to Claim 3 in which the nose loop extends to define a lead.
5. A halter according to Claim 3 in which the nose loop terminates in means adapted to connect to a separate lead.
6. A halter for an animal substantially as herein described with reference to Figs. 1 and 2.